

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising

*OK  
to enter  
R.I.C.  
3/11/05*

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, wherein said amino acid sequence having nicotianamine aminotransferase activity, or

(b) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 3 when incubated in a solution of 5 x Denhart's solution, 5x SSPE and 0.1% SDS at 65°C for 12 hours, washed once with 6x SSP at 65°C for 10 minutes and washed twice with 2x SSP, 0.1% SDS at 42°C for 10 minutes, and which comprises a DNA sequence that is amplifiable by polymerase chain reaction with the primers represented by SEQ ID NO: 5 and 6 repeating a cycle of incubation at 94°C for 40 seconds, followed by 40°C for 1 minute, and followed by 72°C for 2 minutes 25 times, and then repeating a cycle of incubation at 94°C for 40 seconds, followed by 45°C for 1 minute, and followed by 72°C for 2 minutes 25 times, wherein the coding sequence of said nucleotide sequence encodes an amino acid sequence having nicotianamine aminotransferase activity.